



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Flood Control: Specifically Authorized Flood Protection Study - Roseau, Minnesota



*Aerial view of Roseau looking north, taken on June 12, 2002.  
The downtown business district is in the center of the photo.*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

The City of Roseau is located in the northwestern corner of Minnesota in Roseau County about 10 miles south of the Canadian border and about 65 miles east of the North Dakota border. The Roseau River flows in a northerly direction through the city. Roseau has a population of about 2,800. Roseau is home of Polaris Industries, Inc., employing over 2,000 people, and along with agriculture provides a very solid economic base for the community. Roseau County has 16,000 residents and is expected to increase to 19,000 by 2030.

Most of the City is located in the regulatory floodplain due to fact that the City is very flat and relatively low in elevation, so once the river flows out of its banks it flows throughout almost the entire City. On June 9-11, 2002, intense rainfall over the river basin dumped an extraordinary amount of water into the area. This water quickly collected and drained into the Roseau River overflowing the City's levee system and flooding most of the built-up area. The flood damage was enormous resulting in significant damage to downtown businesses and private residences. Over 50 homes will have to be demolished and replaced - many owned by low-income families.

### Status

After the floods of 2002, the City of Roseau and the Roseau River Watershed District requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conduct studies to determine the feasibility of developing a small flood control project at Roseau. A Federal Interest Report was prepared June 2003 that showed a likely federal interest and a likely cost that exceeded the Section 205 funding limits. Therefore, in order to transition the project into a specifically authorized project status, a Section 905(b) analysis was conducted in August 2003. That analysis demonstrated again a likely federal interest and was approved by Corps Headquarters.

In September 2003 a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement was enacted that allowed the City and Corps to initiate a cost-shared feasibility study estimated to cost \$888,000. That study is expected to be completed in June 2005.

### Authority

This is a specifically authorized study with originates from a 30 September 1974 Resolution of the Senate Committee on Public Works.

### Fiscal

In FY03 the initial appraisal was conducted under the CAP as a Section 205 flood control study authority. However, ongoing funding is to be funded via General Investigation funds.

It is too early to identify the project costs. However, preliminary reconnaissance evaluations show that a federal project costing from \$15 to \$25 million would likely be justified by the estimated annualized flood damage reduction benefits in Roseau.

Initial Appraisal	\$100,000
Feasibility Study	\$888,000
PED – General Design	unknown
Construction	unknown